

MONTANA SENATE
2007 LEGISLATURE

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE & SAFETY

DATE 3-23-07

NAMES	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
SEN. JOHN COBB (R)			✓
SEN. JOHN ESP (R)			✓
SEN. KIM GILLAN (D)	✓		
SEN. LYNDA MOSS (D)	✓		
SEN. TERRY MURPHY (R)	✓		
SEN. JERRY O'NEIL (R)	✓		
SEN. TRUDI SCHMIDT (D)			✓
SEN. CAROL WILLIAMS (D)	✓		
SEN. DAN WEINBERG(D) CHAIR	✓		
LISA JACKSON (LSD)	✓		
PRUDENCE GILDROY, SECRETARY	✓		

**MONTANA STATE SENATE
2007 LEGISLATURE**

PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND SAFETY

VISITOR REGISTER

DATE 3.23-07

BILLS BEING HEARD TODAY HB 57 HB 198 HB 22 HJ 26 HJ 33

PLEASE PRINT

NAME	PHONE	REPRESENTING	BILL #	SUPPORT	OPPOSE
Debi MacHewell		DOC/DPHHS	SS 26	✓	
Bruce Deitle	5927	DPHHS/CFSC	57		
Olivia Riutta	495-0197	WELL	HB 198	✓	
Linda Henderson	721-6882	MT Nurses Assoc	HB 198	✓	
CHUCK HUNTER	202-2030	MT. PRIMARY CARE ASSOC	HB 198 HJ 22	✓	
TRACY VELAZQUEZ	539-9715	MT Mental Health Assn	HJ 26	✓	
Debbie Gionnes	422-0732	SELF	HB 57	✓	
James Estes	459-0283	SELF	HB 57	✓	
Twila Costigan	457-4245	Intermountain/MSF/AMA	HB 57	✓	
Pekie Boyle	457-4716	AAHP-MT	HB 198	✓	
ANITA ROESSMANN	449-2344	MAP	HB 26	✓	
Jani McCall	670-3084	MT CI	57	✓	
Steve Yeager	443-1674	MT Council for Maternal & Child Health	57, HB 22		
Joe Wosepka	442-5761	MT Catholic Conference	HB 198	✓	
Brady Vandemann	449-6010	MT Assoc. of Churches	HB 198	✓	

PLEASE LEAVE PREPARED STATEMENT WITH COMMITTEE SECRETARY

To: Senate Public, Health, Welfare, and Safety
From: WEEL – Olivia Riutta – oriutta@weelempowers.org, 406.495.0497.
Date: March 23, 2007
Re: HB 198 – Increase CHIP Dental Benefit

Date 3-23-07
Bill No. HB 198


Mr. Chairman and members of the committee.

I am here today as a representative of WEEL. We are a state based non-profit organization that is made up of low-income Montanans and those who support us. We provide direct advocacy for our low-income neighbors. I am here today to support HB 198 because we believe the dental benefit of the CHIP program can be improved to help the lower-income families depending on the program. .

I spoke with several of our members about this bill and they expressed their frustration over the dental cap. One of our members said that she was unsure whether her son had gone over the benefit because he had a handful of needs built up from years of inconsistent dental care. She was concerned because the dentist had not notified and she didn't have the extra money to cover the additional costs.

The difference between the dental cap and the amount of dental care actually needed by kids, seriously burdens CHIP families. The care given often becomes charity care and/or goes uncompensated. Uncompensated care is inevitably paid for by cost shifting to the rest of the market, either those with insurance plans or those that pay cash out of pocket.

Programs like CHIP are important because it supports hard working Montanans. Also, the comprehensive benefit package demonstrates the effectiveness of true access to health care that aims to save money by keeping kids healthy. It is a model for the reform our healthcare system needs.

HB 198 is important because it is care that kids need. It will help reduce the amount of uncompensated care, and model a cost saving health care package that will help us move forward.

I urge a due pass on HB 198.

Thank you,

Olivia Riutta